

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 -----X  
4 BRIAN HARRIS,

5 Plaintiff,

6 -against- No. 20-CV-10864(LGS)

7 CITY OF NEW YORK; Lieutenant ANGEL  
8 LEON; Detective KRISTEN SWINKUNAS (Shield #2190);  
9 Police Officer ANTONELLA JIMENEZ (Shield #5209);  
10 Police Officer MAXWELL BALTZER (Shield No. 15451);  
11 and Lieutenant JOHN LANE,

12 Defendants.

13 -----X

14 DEPOSITION OF POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

15 New York, New York

16 November 3, 2021

17 10:06 a.m.

18  
19  
20  
21  
22 ELLEN SANDLES REPORTING  
23 145 East 16th Street, #9H  
24 New York, New York 10003  
25 212-677-8739

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Mr. Arko from your body-worn camera on the day of  
3 the incident?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Have you spoken with any other members  
6 of the NYPD in preparation for today's testimony?

7 A. No.

8 Q. So other than that meeting with  
9 Mr. Arko, the TRI Report, the memo book and the  
10 two body-worn camera videos, are there any other  
11 materials that you reviewed or people who you  
12 spoke with to prepare for your testimony today?

13 A. I don't believe so, no.

14 Q. How old are you?

15 A. I am 30.

16 Q. How tall are you?

17 A. Five-foot eight.

18 Q. Approximately how much do you weigh?

19 A. Approximately 170 pounds.

20 Q. Do you work out regularly?

21 A. Define "regularly."

22 Q. Do you work out at a frequency of once  
23 a week or more?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Do you lift weights?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you bench press?

4 A. Have I bench pressed?

5 Q. As part of your typical workout, do you  
6 bench press?

7 A. Sometimes.

8 Q. What's your -- the maximum weight you  
9 can do in a rep on the bench press, if you know?

10 MR. ARKO: Objection.

11 A. That's a good question. I haven't done  
12 it in a while.

13 Q. The last time you worked out, what did  
14 you do?

15 MR. ARKO: Objection, you can answer.

16 A. I ran.

17 Q. The last time you lifted weights, what  
18 did you do?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection, you can answer.

20 A. I did bicep curls.

21 Q. What weight did you use for those  
22 curls?

23 A. 20-pound dumb bells.

24 Q. What is the highest level of education  
25 that you've completed?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. I have my bachelor's.

3 Q. From where?

4 A. Coker College.

5 Q. Are you right-handed or left-handed?

6 A. Right-handed.

7 Q. When were you appointed to the NYPD?

8 A. In 2014.

9 Q. What's your current rank?

10 A. Police officer.

11 Q. Have you ever taken the sergeant's  
12 exam?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Have you ever applied for promotion  
15 within the NYPD?

16 A. No.

17 Q. What's your current command?

18 A. Emergency Service Unit, Truck Two.

19 Q. Is that Floyd Bennet Field?

20 A. No, no, that's in Harlem.

21 Q. In Harlem, okay. What was your command  
22 prior to ESU?

23 A. It was training at Floyd Bennet Field.

24 Q. Before ESU training what was your  
25 command?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. I was in the 26th Precinct.

3 Q. When did you move from the 26th  
4 Precinct to ESU training?

5 A. September 21, 2020.

6 Q. Was ESU a command that you applied for  
7 or sought out in some way?

8 A. I applied for it.

9 Q. Why did you apply for it?

10 A. Because I wanted to be in the unit.

11 Q. Why did you want to be in the unit?

12 A. Because I wanted to help people.

13 Q. What is it specifically about what ESU  
14 does that made you think it was a good fit for  
15 your desire to help people?

16 A. We do a lot of rescue work.

17 Q. When were you first assigned to the  
18 26th Precinct?

19 A. December of 2014 approximately.

20 Q. Was that your first command after the  
21 academy?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Today you are at the offices of the New  
24 York City Law Department, yes?

25 A. Yes.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. Do you have any documents or other  
3 paperwork in front of you at the moment?

4 A. No.

5 MR. LIEB: I am going to paste into the  
6 chat and then share on the screen what I have  
7 marked as Plaintiff's [Exhibit 1](#).

8 (Plaintiff's [Exhibit No. 1](#) was  
9 marked for identification.)

10 Q. Officer Baltzer, can you see a document  
11 with the yellow label in the upper right hand  
12 corner that says Plaintiff's [Exhibit 1](#) on your  
13 screen?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. This document has your name and tax ID  
16 number on the top, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. I should have said this is a one-page  
19 document Bates numbered DEF089 produced by  
20 defendants in this case.

21 Do you recognize this document to be a  
22 copy of your electronic activity log, also known  
23 as a memo book for your tour of duty on the night  
24 of September 1st and the morning of September 2,  
25 2020?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Directing your attention to the middle  
4 portion of the document where the entries for  
5 September 2nd begin, there is an entry for  
6 01:30 hours.

7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. It says "GLA operation with Lieutenant  
10 Lane."

11 Do you see that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What does "GLA operation with  
14 Lieutenant Lane" mean?

15 A. GLA stands for "grand larceny auto," so  
16 a GLA operation would be that myself and  
17 Lieutenant Lane were doing the operation in  
18 searching for grand larceny autos, which are  
19 possible stolen cars.

20 Q. When you say you and Lieutenant Lane  
21 were doing that operation, were you in a patrol  
22 car together?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. At the time of this incident on the  
25 morning of September 2nd of 2020, were you

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 assigned to a particular unit or division or  
3 sector within the 26th Precinct?

4 A. I was designated as Lieutenant Lane's  
5 operator.

6 Q. When you say "operator" you mean  
7 operator of the patrol car, i.e., driver, right?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Had you been assigned to perform that  
10 role for Lieutenant Lane on previous occasions?

11 A. Before this incident?

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. I believe so.

14 Q. Was Lieutenant Lane the special  
15 operations lieutenant at the time, to your  
16 knowledge?

17 A. At the time, yes.

18 Q. What is the special operations  
19 lieutenant?

20 A. He is the lieutenant in charge of a  
21 specific number of special divisions within the  
22 26th Precinct.

23 Q. What divisions are those?

24 A. For instance, it would be NCOs or YCOs  
25 or different units within the 26th.



1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. For the benefit of the record, can you  
3 tell us the full name, as opposed to the acronym  
4 if you can?

5 A. Neighborhood coordination officer and  
6 youth coordination officer.

7 Q. Any other divisions within the 26th  
8 Precinct that the special operations lieutenant  
9 was in charge of to your knowledge?

10 A. To my knowledge, I'm not sure.

11 Q. Were you an NCO or a YCO at the time?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Understanding on the particular day in  
14 question you were assigned to be Lieutenant Lane's  
15 operator; more generally were you within a  
16 particular division, unit or sector of the 26th  
17 Precinct around September of 2020?

18 A. I was designated as Lieutenant Lane's  
19 operator.

20 Q. Was serving as Lieutenant Lane's  
21 operator something you did on a regular basis when  
22 you reported for your tour every day of the week?

23 A. Normally, but not every day.

24 Q. Around when did you first come to be  
25 assigned to be Lieutenant Lane's operator?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Somewhere in the vicinity of June to  
3 July of that year.

4 Q. Was that an assignment that you  
5 requested, applied for or sought out in any way?

6 A. It just mutually came to.

7 Q. So before becoming Lieutenant Lane's  
8 operator you and he had a working relationship?

9 A. No, Lieutenant Lane was new to the 26th  
10 Precinct.

11 Q. So how did you and he come to this  
12 arrangement?

13 A. He was new to the precinct and I knew  
14 the area because I had worked there six years, so  
15 he sought me out to show him around the precinct  
16 so he could get to the know the area.

17 Q. So before the GLA operation that was  
18 reflected at 1:30 hours on the morning of  
19 September 2nd, were you and Lieutenant Lane on  
20 patrol throughout the precinct or at the precinct  
21 itself?

22 A. Before the start of that tour?

23 Q. Withdrawn -- let's go back to the  
24 activity log.

25 Do you see the activity log on your

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 screen?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. This indicates you were present for  
5 duty at the start of your tour at 10:30 hours.

6 Right?

7 A. 8:30.

8 Q. Oh, sorry, thank you.

9 Then at 1:30 a.m. there was this grand  
10 larceny auto operation, right?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Between reporting for the beginning of  
13 your tour at 8:30 p.m. and the operation at  
14 1:30 a.m. were you on patrol or in the precinct or  
15 some combination of both?

16 A. I was in some combination of both.

17 Q. You were in uniform on that day?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you had a TASER?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you have a body-worn camera on your  
22 person on that day?

23 A. On this day in question?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. I'm not sure at this moment.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. Do you have any reason to believe you  
3 would not have had a body-worn camera on the day  
4 in question?

5 A. Yes, because the previous day on  
6 September 1st I also worked a tour, and it was a  
7 double going into this day in question that  
8 started at 20:30, and from my professional  
9 experience with the body camera that I was using  
10 it only lasts eight to the nine hours, so if it  
11 was on for that whole tour on the 1st then it  
12 would have been charging the tour that started on  
13 20:30.

14 Q. In your experience, about how long does  
15 it take the body-worn camera to charge up?

16 A. I'm not too sure.

17 Q. Do you charge them at the precinct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. You mentioned you had worked a tour  
20 earlier in the day on September 1st, right?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. When did that tour end?

23 A. I believe it went right into the tour  
24 that started at 20:30, if not ending five minutes  
25 before that tour.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. So the tour that is reflected in the  
3 activity log marked as Plaintiff's [Exhibit 1](#) was  
4 the second of two consecutive tours, right?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. At that point -- a regularly scheduled  
7 tour is what, eight and a half hours?

8 A. I believe so, yes.

9 Q. At the point when you reported for the  
10 tour reflected on Plaintiff's [Exhibit 1](#) at  
11 8:30 p.m. you had already been on duty since  
12 approximately noon on September 1st, right?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. How did it come to be that you were  
15 assigned a second tour on September 1st of 2020?

16 A. Can you say that again? I'm sorry.

17 Q. Why, to your knowledge, did you end up  
18 with a second tour on September 2020?

19 A. As of now, I don't remember.

20 Q. Would you expect there would be any  
21 document or record generated by you or your  
22 colleagues that would reflect the reason why you  
23 had a double tour on that day?

24 A. I don't remember --

25 MR. ARKO: Objection.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. Just going back to Plaintiff's  
3 [Exhibit 1](#) "steady Sunday, Monday" here indicates  
4 that Sunday, Monday were your regular days off.

5 Correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. What were the times of your regularly  
8 scheduled tour as of September 2020?

9 A. Can you ask that again?

10 Q. Sure. What time was your regular tour  
11 as of September 2020?

12 A. I don't remember.

13 Q. So, before this particular tour in  
14 which the incident with Mr. Harris occurred on the  
15 morning of September 2nd of 2020, how frequently  
16 did you typically carry a TASER on your tours of  
17 duty?

18 A. Just about every day.

19 Q. Why was that?

20 A. On patrol when we went out we were  
21 pretty much required to.

22 Q. To your knowledge, did most officers  
23 within the 26th Precinct usually have TASERs with  
24 them when they were out on patrol?

25 MR. ARKO: Objection.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. To my knowledge at this moment,  
3 usually.

4 Q. What does a TASER look like?

5 A. It's yellow in color.

6 Q. It's made of plastic?

7 A. Usually made of plastic.

8 Q. What does it feel like in your hand?

9 MR. ARKO: Objection.

10 A. It feels like you are holding a piece  
11 of plastic.

12 Q. It is significantly lighter than your  
13 service weapon, right?

14 MR. ARKO: Objection.

15 A. You can say that.

16 Q. It's designed so you can tell the  
17 difference between your gun and your TASER by  
18 feel, right?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. I don't know if that's true, "by feel."

21 Q. Can you tell the difference between  
22 your gun and your TASER by feel?

23 MR. ARKO: Objection.

24 A. Personally, from my personal experience  
25 of being a police officer I believe I can.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. So, how was it your practice to carry  
3 your TASER when you were on patrol?

4 A. Can you ask that again?

5 Q. How did you typically carry your TASER  
6 when you were on patrol?

7 A. It was on my duty belt.

8 Q. Which side?

9 A. On my left side.

10 Q. You would have your gun on your right  
11 side, right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. So were you trained to keep your gun on  
14 the side where your dominant hand is?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Why is that to your knowledge?

17 A. Because usually if you are right-hand  
18 dominant you would have a better shot with your  
19 right hand using your firearm.

20 Q. Would you typically keep the TASER in a  
21 holster on your belt?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Describe the holster.

24 A. The holster is black, also plastic and  
25 it has a locking mechanism.



1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. The holster for your gun also has a  
3 locking mechanism, right?

4 A. Correct, it has two locking mechanisms.

5 Q. And the TASER holster has one locking  
6 mechanism?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. The purpose of the locking mechanism is  
9 to make it harder for a suspect to grab your  
10 weapon in the course of an encounter, right?

11 A. One of the reasons.

12 Q. What's the locking mechanism on the  
13 TASER holster?

14 A. It is a button on the side of the  
15 holster.

16 Q. You know exactly where that button is  
17 by feel, right?

18 A. By feel, I believe I do yes.

19 Q. How does that compare to the locking  
20 mechanisms on your firearm holster?

21 A. They are in different places.

22 Q. On the firearm holster are there two  
23 buttons?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. So, the TASER itself has a safety

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 switch on it, is that right?

3 A. On the TASER itself, yes.

4 Q. Describe how you toggle that safety  
5 switch between on-and-off.

6 A. It's a flap on either side of the  
7 TASER, and you push it up or down depending on  
8 whether you want safety on or off.

9 Q. You can push it on either side of the  
10 TASER, right?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. You just click it up or down, right?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Then once you turn the safety off the  
15 TASER is automatically activated and ready for  
16 use, right?

17 A. Say that again, I'm sorry.

18 Q. Once you turn the safety off the TASER  
19 is automatically activated and ready for use,  
20 right?

21 A. When you disengage the safety, is that  
22 what you're talking about?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. To an extent, yes.

25 Q. When you say "to an extent" what do you

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 mean by that?

3 A. It depends if you want to put the  
4 cartridge in the TASER or not, if the cartridge is  
5 not in the TASER then no prongs will shoot out.

6 Q. When you carry the TASER in your  
7 holster on patrol, was it typically your practice  
8 to keep a cartridge in it?

9 A. What do you mean by "a cartridge in  
10 it"?

11 Q. Let's back up. There are two different  
12 ways of using a TASER, one with a cartridge with  
13 probes and the other in drive stun mode, right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. So in order to shoot out the probes the  
16 TASER has to have a cartridge loaded into it,  
17 right?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. So when you had the TASER on your belt  
20 during a normal tour of duty, was it your practice  
21 to have a cartridge in the TASER?

22 A. In the front of the TASER or by the  
23 handle?

24 Q. Well, I don't know, so where was it  
25 your practice to keep the cartridge for the TASER

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 when the TASER was on your belt in a regular tour?

3 A. My practice was to keep a cartridge  
4 inside the port in the front of the TASER, inside  
5 the holster.

6 Q. When you say "inside the port in the  
7 front of the TASER" that's where it would go when  
8 you wanted to actually shoot the probes out,  
9 right?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. So it was your practice to keep the  
12 TASER in your holster in a position that it was  
13 already loaded with the cartridge, right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. So assuming we are in a scenario where  
16 the TASER is loaded in that manner on your belt,  
17 you take it out of the holster, you click off the  
18 safety; at that point it is active and ready for  
19 use, right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. So in a typical situation where you are  
22 out on patrol with a TASER on your belt, the  
23 things you would have to do to be able to use it  
24 are: push the button on the holster, draw from  
25 the holster and click off the safety, right?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 MR. ARKO: Objection.

3 A. In order to use the TASER?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Essentially, yes.

6 Q. Then in order to actually discharge the  
7 TASER you pull a trigger, right?

8 A. With the safety deactivated, yes.

9 Q. Once the safety has been deactivated if  
10 you want to discharge the TASER the way to do that  
11 is by pulling a trigger, right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Is the trigger pull on the TASER  
14 similar to the trigger pull on a firearm?

15 A. What do you mean by "similar"?

16 Q. Do you have to do something special to  
17 pull the trigger on the TASER?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. Besides taking off the safety, no.

20 Q. So once the safety is off you pull the  
21 trigger normally and it fires, right or  
22 discharges?

23 A. Again, I don't know what you mean by  
24 "normally."

25 Q. Do you have to push any other button

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 while you are pulling the trigger?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Does the trigger on the TASER have  
5 significantly more resistance than the trigger on  
6 the firearm?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do you have to pull the trigger on the  
9 TASER especially hard?

10 MR. ARKO: Objection.

11 A. To my experience, no.

12 Q. So, obviously when you're on patrol you  
13 carry a firearm to protect yourself and others,  
14 correct?

15 MR. ARKO: Objection.

16 A. True.

17 Q. If you encounter a situation in which  
18 you feel it is necessary to use your firearm to  
19 prevent imminent loss of life to yourself, another  
20 officer or a civilian you have the authority to do  
21 that, right?

22 MR. ARKO: Objection.

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. That is one of the things that we  
25 entrust police officers with is making decisions

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 about the use-of-force, including deadly force,  
3 while in the field?

4 MR. ARKO: Objection.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You don't need authorization from a  
7 supervisor to fire your gun in the field, do you?

8 A. No.

9 Q. You don't need authorization from a  
10 supervisor to discharge your TASER in the field,  
11 do you?

12 MR. ARKO: Objection.

13 A. No.

14 Q. If you encounter a situation in which  
15 you conclude it is necessary to discharge your  
16 firearm you're not going to hesitate, are you?

17 MR. ARKO: Objection.

18 A. It depends on the situation.

19 Q. Well, once you've made the decision  
20 that it's necessary to use deadly force every  
21 split second counts, right?

22 MR. ARKO: Objection.

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. You're trained to be able to draw your  
25 firearm very quickly for that reason, right?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 MR. ARKO: Objection.

3 A. That's one of the reasons.

4 Q. You may as a police officer find  
5 yourself in a situation where you need to get your  
6 weapon out very quickly, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That's something you can do, right?

9 MR. ARKO: Objection.

10 A. I believe so.

11 Q. You were taught in the academy how to  
12 remove your firearm from the holster quickly,  
13 right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. In a split second, right?

16 A. I mean I don't know about -- as fast as  
17 possible, as fast as reasonably possible.

18 Q. You practice that in the academy?

19 A. Practice what in the academy?

20 Q. Drawing your weapon quickly.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you practice that in refresher  
23 training?

24 A. We practice drawing it as fast as  
25 reasonably possible.



1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. Under ordinary circumstances you keep  
3 the safety on your firearm when you're out on  
4 patrol, right?

5 A. Can you say that again? "The safety on  
6 my firearm"?

7 Q. You keep the safety on -- the safety  
8 mechanism of your firearm is on safety when you're  
9 out in the field, right?

10 A. Our firearms don't have safeties.

11 Q. "Firearms don't have safeties"?

12 A. No.

13 Q. When you're out in the field and you  
14 have a TASER on your belt you have the authority  
15 to use that TASER if you determine that it is  
16 reasonably necessary under the circumstances,  
17 right?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. If you think you need to TASE an  
21 arrestee to gain control of him or overcome his  
22 resistance you can do that, right?

23 MR. ARKO: Objection.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. That's a choice that you can make on

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 your own, right?

3 MR. ARKO: Objection.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If you've determined that a TASER is  
6 necessary, reasonably necessary to gain control of  
7 an arrestee, you're not going to hesitate are you?

8 MR. ARKO: Objection.

9 A. If I deem that I need to use a TASER  
10 imminently then usually not.

11 Q. So the process of unlocking the single  
12 button on the TASER holster, pulling out the TASER  
13 and clicking off the safety takes maybe a second,  
14 right?

15 MR. ARKO: Objection.

16 A. I don't know how long it takes to be  
17 honest.

18 Q. But you can do it very quickly, right?

19 A. As quick as reasonably possible.

20 Q. You were trained, as part of your TASER  
21 certification, in drawing the TASER, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That's an action that you have  
24 practiced many times, right?

25 A. Yes.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. You're satisfied that you can do it  
3 quickly enough to use it without hesitation when  
4 you deem it necessary, right?

5 MR. ARKO: Objection.

6 A. In my personal experience I believe  
7 that I can.

8 Q. Okay. Obviously you have an obligation  
9 to follow the lawful orders of your superiors in  
10 the chain of command, right?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. But if you are ordered to use force in  
13 a way that you determine is unnecessary and  
14 excessive, you have an obligation not to follow  
15 that order, right?

16 A. Would that -- in your eyes would that  
17 be considered to be an unlawful order?

18 Q. Fair point. You have an obligation not  
19 to follow unlawful orders, right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. You know as a police officer that you  
22 can only use reasonable force, right?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. So if you are ordered to use  
25 unreasonable force by a superior officer you have

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 an obligation not to do that, right?

3 A. Correct.

4 MR. LIEB: I am going to paste in the  
5 chat and put on the screen what I have marked as  
6 Plaintiff's [Exhibit 2](#), which is a ten page  
7 document Bates number defendants 245 to 254.

8 (Plaintiff's [Exhibit No. 2](#) was  
9 marked for identification.)

10 Q. Can you see Plaintiff's [Exhibit 2](#) on  
11 your screen Officer Baltzer?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. I will represent to you that this is  
14 the portion of the patrol guide that was governing  
15 TASERS that was in effect as of the time of this  
16 incident in September 2020 as produced by your  
17 attorney, Mr. Arko. I am going to go to page 246,  
18 the first definition on the page where it says  
19 "warning arc."

20 Do you where I am on the page?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Are you familiar with something called  
23 a "warning arc"?

24 A. Honestly, I am aware of it; yes.

25 Q. When you say "honestly" you're "aware

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 of it," you're aware of its existence but it is  
3 not something that is typically used in your  
4 experience?

5 MR. ARKO: Objection.

6 A. It is not something I am familiar with.

7 Q. Okay. Were you trained in your TASER  
8 certification on a procedure of displaying an arc  
9 of electricity as a way of warning a subject?

10 A. I don't remember.

11 Q. I am going to page Defendants 250,  
12 paragraph 23.

13 Do you see where I am?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So paragraph 23 on page Defendants 250  
16 reads "When feasible, issue an appropriate verbal  
17 warning, consistent with personal safety, to the  
18 intended subject and other members of the service  
19 present prior to discharging CEW."

20 Do you see that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. "CEW" is a TASER, right?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. It goes on to say "The verbal warning  
25 may be used in conjunction with laser/arc warnings

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2 in order to gain voluntary compliance and prevent  
3 the need to use force."

4 Do you see that language?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Are you familiar with the procedure of  
7 giving verbal warnings prior to deploying a TASER?

8 A. I am not familiar -- quite familiar  
9 with this document, I haven't seen this in a  
10 while; but yes.

11 Q. Were you trained to give verbal  
12 warnings when feasible prior to deploying your  
13 TASER?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you give me an example of the kind  
16 of verbal warning that you were trained to give  
17 before deploying your TASER?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. In the academy they taught to us say  
20 "TASER, TASER, TASER."

21 Q. Is saying "TASER, TASER, TASER"  
22 supposed to give the subject an opportunity to  
23 comply or is it supposed to alert other members of  
24 the service you are about to deploy the TASER so  
25 they should get out of the way?

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2 MR. ARKO: Objection.

3 A. It is meant for other members that when  
4 they hear that they are to get out of the way, but  
5 also the verbal warning to the subject that a  
6 TASER had been brought into the scene.

7 Q. Were you ever trained to give a verbal  
8 warning in the nature of "if you don't comply, I  
9 am going to TASE you" or "if you don't stop  
10 resisting, I am going to TASE you"?

11 MR. ARKO: Objection.

12 A. I don't remember.

13 Q. Have you ever given a warning like that  
14 as opposed to saying "TASER, TASER, TASER"?

15 MR. ARKO: Objection.

16 A. In this instance? In this situation?

17 Q. No, in any situation.

18 A. I don't remember.

19 Q. Going back to Plaintiff's [Exhibit 2](#) at  
20 the bottom of page 250 going onto the top of 251,  
21 do you see the paragraph that begins with the word  
22 "fleeing"?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR. ARKO: Can you orient that?

25 (Discussion regarding the page

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2 orientation.)

3 Q. Do you see this language that says  
4 "Fleeing should not be the sole justification for  
5 using a CEW against a subject. Members should  
6 consider the severity of the offense, the  
7 subject's threat level to others, and the risk of  
8 serious injury to the subject before deciding to  
9 use a CEW on a fleeing subject."

10 Do you see that language?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Were you trained that fleeing should  
13 not be the sole justification for using the TASER  
14 against a subject?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Were you told why fleeing should not be  
17 the sole justification for using a TASER on a  
18 subject?

19 A. I don't remember.

20 Q. Do you know why fleeing should not be  
21 the sole justification for using a TASER on a  
22 subject?

23 MR. ARKO: Objection.

24 A. I don't remember.

25 Q. Still on the top of Defendant 251 do



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2 you see the paragraph "The CEW should generally  
3 not be used on children, the elderly, obviously  
4 pregnant females, the frail, against subjects  
5 operating or riding on any moving device or  
6 vehicle" -- parenthetical -- "where the subject  
7 may fall while it is in motion or in situations  
8 where the subject may fall from an elevated  
9 surface."

10 Do you see that language?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You were trained that you should not  
13 use a TASER in a situation where someone might  
14 fall from an elevated surface, right?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. When people are TASED they often fall  
17 down, right?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. At times, sometimes; not all the time.

20 Q. But you know that when people are TASED  
21 sometimes they fall down, right?

22 MR. ARKO: Objection.

23 A. Sometimes.

24 Q. The reason you are not supposed to TASE  
25 someone on an elevated surface where they could

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 fall a significant distance is because it is a  
3 known consequence of TASING someone that they may  
4 fall, right?

5 MR. ARKO: Objection.

6 A. They may fall, yes.

7 Q. And that's why you are not supposed to  
8 TASE someone on an elevated surface because if  
9 they do fall they could sustain very serious  
10 injuries, right?

11 MR. ARKO: Objection.

12 A. One of the reasons, yes.

13 Q. It is foreseeable that someone may fall  
14 if you TASE them, right?

15 MR. ARKO: Objection.

16 A. They may sometimes fall.

17 Q. Going back to something we had  
18 discussed previously, you had mentioned that your  
19 body-worn camera was on your person during the  
20 earlier tour on September 1st that you believe  
21 preceded this tour.

22 Right?

23 A. I believe so, yes.

24 Q. When you said "it was on" do you mean  
25 it was activated for the entirety of your tour or

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 just that it was on your body?

3 A. It was on my body but it was also on  
4 standby mode, which is not actively recording but  
5 taking a buffer so if it were to turn on it would  
6 be a 30 second buffer from the point I turned it  
7 on, prior.

8 Q. When you have a body-worn camera on  
9 your person it's your regular practice to keep it  
10 on standby mode?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. That's what you are required to do  
13 under the patrol guide?

14 MR. ARKO: Objection.

15 A. I'm not so sure about the patrol guide,  
16 but that is what we are supposed to do.

17 Q. Irrespective of what document it is in,  
18 that's what you're supposed to do, right?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. Yes.

21 MR. LIEB: Let's take a five-minute  
22 break.

23 MR. ARKO: Okay, see you back at 11:11.

24 (Recess.)

25 Q. So, Officer Baltzer there came a time

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2 on the morning of September 2nd of 2020 at which  
3 you responded to Mount Sinai Morningside Hospital  
4 on West 113th Street, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. That's within the 26th Precinct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. How did you come to respond to that  
9 location on that particular day?

10 A. I believe I drove there.

11 Q. What led you to drive there?

12 A. From what I remember at this moment,  
13 there was a radio run for a shooting.

14 Q. Was there a request for additional  
15 units to respond to the hospital?

16 A. I don't remember.

17 Q. Why were you responding to the hospital  
18 in connection with the shooting as opposed to some  
19 other location?

20 A. At this moment, I don't remember.

21 Q. When you got to the hospital, were any  
22 other members of the service present?

23 A. When I arrived at the hospital?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. I don't remember if they were or

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2 weren't.

3 Q. When you arrived at the hospital, did  
4 you observe anything unusual outside the hospital?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What did you observe?

7 A. I observed a vehicle parked in front of  
8 the ER entrance to the hospital in an unusual  
9 parking formation as you would say.

10 Q. It was basically stopped in the street  
11 across a lane of traffic, right?

12 A. Correct, it was in the middle of the  
13 street.

14 Q. What else, if anything, did you observe  
15 about that vehicle?

16 A. I observed one of the doors were open  
17 on the vehicle.

18 Q. Anything else?

19 A. No, not that I remember.

20 Q. Do you remember that the vehicle was an  
21 SUV?

22 A. That I remember, yes.

23 Q. If I represent to you that it was a  
24 Chevy Tahoe, do you have any information  
25 inconsistent with that?

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2 MR. ARKO: Objection.

3 A. I don't remember what make and model it  
4 was at this point.

5 Q. So, once you observed that the vehicle  
6 was parked in this unusual manner and had an  
7 opened door what did you do?

8 A. As of right now, I believe that I  
9 approached the vehicle and in connection with the  
10 shooting and everything going on at the scene we  
11 conducted a primary investigation and determined  
12 that this vehicle could have possibly been  
13 involved.

14 Q. What was it that led you to make that  
15 determination?

16 A. The unusual manner of where the vehicle  
17 was parked, how someone would park in the middle a  
18 street and leave a door open.

19 Q. Anything else?

20 A. It was later determined that one of the  
21 victims of the shooting was inside the hospital.

22 Q. I think you had said "we" did a  
23 preliminary investigation and determined that the  
24 vehicle may have some potential connection to the  
25 shooting.

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2 Who was the "we" you were referring to  
3 there?

4 A. Again, I'm not sure who was on scene or  
5 not.

6 Q. Approximately what time did you arrive  
7 at the hospital?

8 A. I'm not sure of that either.

9 Q. So after you and some other colleagues  
10 conducted this preliminary investigation  
11 assessment, what did you do next?

12 A. I don't remember specifically what  
13 happened at that moment.

14 Q. Did you go inside the hospital?

15 A. At some point, yes. I don't remember  
16 if it was before or after the interaction with  
17 Mr. Harris.

18 Q. You were driving Lieutenant Lane on the  
19 night in question, right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So Lieutenant Lane arrived at the  
22 hospital when you did because you were in the same  
23 vehicle, right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Lieutenant Lane was also present when

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2 you were conducting this initial search inspection  
3 of the vehicle, right?

4 A. He arrived with me, I don't remember  
5 where he went after we got on scene.

6 Q. About how long were you on the scene at  
7 the hospital before you encountered the person who  
8 you eventually came to know was Mr. Harris, Sr.?

9 A. I don't remember.

10 Q. Was it more than three hours?

11 MR. ARKO: Objection.

12 A. Again, I can't put a time limit on it;  
13 I don't remember.

14 Q. Did you speak with any civilians at the  
15 scene before you first encountered Mr. Harris?

16 A. Not that I remember.

17 Q. Did you speak with Mr. Harris' wife,  
18 before you encountered Mr. Harris?

19 A. I don't remember.

20 Q. So tell me everything you knew about  
21 the shooting, prior to the moment when you  
22 encountered Mr. Harris.

23 A. From what I remember at this moment, I  
24 remember it was a shooting over the radio, I  
25 remember responding to the hospital and figuring



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2 out that one of the victims of the shooting was,  
3 in fact, inside that hospital.

4 Q. Did you have any other information  
5 concerning the shooting at the time you first  
6 encountered Mr. Harris?

7 A. Can you repeat that?

8 Q. Other than what you just described, did  
9 you have any other information concerning the  
10 shooting at the time you first encountered  
11 Mr. Harris?

12 A. Not that I remember, no.

13 Q. What steps, if any, did you and your  
14 colleagues take to secure the vehicle before  
15 Mr. Harris arrived on the scene?

16 A. I don't remember.

17 Q. Did you put any tape around it or  
18 barriers of any kind?

19 A. I personally did not put any tape or  
20 barriers.

21 Q. Did you observe any other members of  
22 the service do that?

23 A. Not that I remember.

24 Q. Do you know why that wasn't done?

25 MR. ARKO: Objection.

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2 A. No, not that I remember.

3 Q. How did Mr. Harris first come to your  
4 attention outside the hospital on the morning of  
5 September 2, 2020?

6 A. Mr. Harris walked up to us and  
7 approached myself, Lieutenant Lane and the vehicle  
8 in question.

9 Q. So at the time you first encountered  
10 Mr. Harris you were standing outside in the  
11 street, right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. At the time you first encountered  
14 Mr. Harris, where were you standing in relation to  
15 the vehicle?

16 A. Within a few feet of the vehicle.

17 Q. What were you doing at that time?

18 A. I don't remember.

19 Q. What other members of the service were  
20 present at the time that you first encountered  
21 Mr. Harris, at the time you were standing a few  
22 feet from the vehicle?

23 A. I remember Lieutenant Lane and  
24 Lieutenant Leon.

25 Q. Were you familiar with Lieutenant Leon

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2 before September 2, 2020?

3 A. Familiar as what?

4 Q. Did you know his name when -- by sight?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Had you ever been his operator?

7 A. Not that I remember.

8 Q. Was he, to your knowledge, assigned to  
9 the 26th Precinct at the time?

10 A. To my knowledge, yes.

11 Q. Did you ever have chit chat in the  
12 precinct when you encountered him on the job?

13 A. I don't remember, maybe "hello" or  
14 "goodbye."

15 Q. Sure. Are you familiar with a member  
16 of the service by the name of Kristen Swinkunas?

17 A. I'm not familiar.

18 Q. Are you familiar with a member of the  
19 service by the name of Antonella Jimenez?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was Officer Jimenez present at the time  
22 that you first encountered Mr. Harris, when you  
23 were standing a few feet from the vehicle on the  
24 street?

25 A. I don't remember.

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2 Q. Were there any women officers present  
3 when you first encountered Mr. Harris standing a  
4 few feet from the vehicle on the street?

5 A. I don't remember.

6 Q. So you indicated Mr. Harris approached  
7 you, Lieutenant Lane and the vehicle.

8 Correct?

9 A. He approached the scene, yes.

10 Q. He identified himself in sum and  
11 substance as the father of the victim of the  
12 shooting, correct?

13 A. In substance, yes.

14 Q. And he indicated in substance that the  
15 vehicle was his, correct?

16 A. In substance, yes.

17 Q. Where was Lieutenant Lane standing in  
18 relation to you as Mr. Harris approached the  
19 vehicle and you?

20 A. I don't remember.

21 Q. Where was Lieutenant Leon standing as  
22 Mr. Harris approached?

23 A. I don't remember.

24 Q. You had indicated that one of the doors  
25 to the vehicle was open.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. That was the front passenger side door,  
5 correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Was there any member of the service  
8 standing in front of that door?

9 MR. ARKO: Objection.

10 A. I don't remember.

11 Q. Was there anything blocking it --  
12 blocking that open door in any way?

13 A. I don't remember.

14 Q. Was there anything indicating to a  
15 member of the public who happened to walk down the  
16 block that the police considered this a crime  
17 scene?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. I don't remember.

20 Q. But there was no caution tape or  
21 anything like that, right?

22 A. Again, I didn't put up any caution  
23 tape. I don't know what anyone else did.

24 Q. You didn't see any when this incident  
25 happened, did you?

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2 MR. ARKO: Objection.

3 A. What do you mean "when it happened"?

4 Q. At the time of the incident with  
5 Mr. Harris, was there any caution tape, signage,  
6 barriers or anything else outside of the vehicle  
7 indicating this was a crime scene?

8 MR. ARKO: Objection.

9 A. At the time of the incident, I don't  
10 remember seeing anything like that.

11 MR. LIEB: Plaintiff's Exhibit 3 is  
12 going to be the body-worn camera footage produced  
13 as Defendants 54.

14 (Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 3 was  
15 marked for identification.)

16 MR. LIEB: I can't paste that, but  
17 Chris you obviously have it so I am going to share  
18 that on my screen.

19 MR. ARKO: After the deposition, if you  
20 don't mind e-mailing me the documents you marked  
21 I'd appreciate that.

22 MR. LIEB: That's fine.

23 Q. Officer Baltzer can you see on your  
24 screen a still image -- can you see an image on  
25 your screen?

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2 MR. ARKO: Just a second. Before we do  
3 that, I have to minimize the pane that shows the  
4 participants so we can see the entire video.

5 Q. Can you see the still frame of the  
6 video on your screen Officer Baltzer?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you recognize the person in the  
9 white shirt depicted on the left side of the  
10 frame?

11 A. It is a little blurry, but it could  
12 possibly be Lieutenant Lane.

13 Q. I am going to play a few seconds of the  
14 video to confirm it is working technologically.

15 (Video played.)

16 Q. I have paused the video at 5 seconds.  
17 Did you see the video play just  
18 technically speaking Officer Baltzer?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. I am now going to play about the first  
21 minute and 5 seconds of the video.

22 (Video played.)

23 Q. I am going to pause the video at  
24 54 seconds.

25 That's Lieutenant Lane, right?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Have you seen yourself depicted at any  
4 point in the first 54 seconds of this video?

5 A. Not that I believe, no.

6 Q. Where were you standing during the  
7 interaction depicted on this 54 seconds of video?

8 A. I believe that I am standing behind  
9 Lieutenant Lane.

10 Q. Essentially out of the field of the  
11 camera, further to the left from the perspective  
12 of the camera?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Were you present for the entirety of  
15 the interaction between Mr. Harris and the other  
16 members of the service we have seen depicted so  
17 far?

18 A. So far in this video, yes.

19 Q. Did you have your hand on your TASER  
20 throughout the portion of the interaction we have  
21 been watching?

22 A. I don't remember.

23 Q. Did you have your hand on your gun?

24 A. I don't remember.

25 (Video played.)



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2 Q. So I have stopped the video at 1:08.

3 Did you hear just before I stopped the  
4 video a voice say "get your TASER"?

5 A. No, I did not.

6 Q. Okay, I will just play those few  
7 seconds one more time and see if you are able to  
8 hear it.

9 A. Okay.

10 (Video played.)

11 Q. I just stopped the video again at 1:08.  
12 Did you hear a voice say "get your  
13 TASER"?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Based on your recollection of these  
16 events you understand that to be Lieutenant Leon  
17 who said that, right?

18 A. To my knowledge, yes.

19 Q. He was talking to you, right?

20 A. To my knowledge, yes.

21 Q. I am going to go back to 1:05.

22 (Video played.)

23 Q. I have now stopped the video at 1  
24 minute and 10 seconds.

25 Did you hear Lieutenant Leon say "get

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 your TASER" four times?

3 A. I don't know about four, I wasn't  
4 counting.

5 Q. I will play it again.

6 (Video played.)

7 Q. I stopped the video at 1:10.

8 Did you hear Lieutenant Leon say "get  
9 your TASER" four times?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you hear him say that in an  
12 escalating tone of voice?

13 MR. ARKO: Objection.

14 A. I don't know what you consider  
15 "escalating" or what Lieutenant Leon would  
16 consider escalating.

17 Q. Did you hear him say that in what you  
18 would consider to be an escalating tone of voice?

19 A. Again, I don't know what state he was  
20 in at the moment, I don't know if it would be  
21 escalating. I don't know what state he was in.

22 Q. I'm not asking you to speculate about  
23 what was in Lieutenant Leon's mind or anything  
24 like that, I am asking you, purely based upon you  
25 hearing the voice, whether you would consider that

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2 to be an escalating tone of voice?

3 A. The pitch of his voice got higher if  
4 that's what you're asking.

5 Q. He started speaking louder also, right?

6 A. I don't know if he was speaking louder,  
7 but his tone of voice got higher.

8 Q. It took you a few seconds to get your  
9 TASER, right?

10 A. I'm not so sure we could put a few  
11 seconds on that or a time on it.

12 Q. You would agree with me that between a  
13 minute seven of the video and a minute ten of the  
14 video Lieutenant Leon orders you to get your TASER  
15 four times, correct?

16 A. I don't know who Lieutenant Leon was  
17 ordering or who he thought he was ordering. Only  
18 he can speak to that.

19 Q. Well, at the time you understood him to  
20 be ordering you, right?

21 A. Personally, knowing that I have a TASER  
22 I heard him and I thought so, but again, I don't  
23 know for sure who he was talking to.

24 Q. But regardless of what his intent was,  
25 you understood standing on the street on September

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2 2nd, 2020 when he said "get your TASER" he was  
3 ordering you, correct?

4 MR. ARKO: Objection.

5 A. Again, I don't know who he was  
6 ordering, I can only say from my own knowledge and  
7 my own knowledge knowing I have a TASER, I thought  
8 he was talking to me.

9 Q. You thought he was talking to you  
10 right?

11 A. At the time, yes.

12 Q. So, over the course of a minute seven  
13 to a minute ten of the video Lieutenant Leon gives  
14 the order "get your TASER" four times, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. It took you that amount of time to get  
17 your TASER, correct?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. What do you mean by "get your TASER"?

20 Q. Had you drawn your TASER before  
21 Lieutenant Leon completed those four commands?

22 A. I can't tell from the video.

23 Q. Do you have any recollection of having  
24 drawn your TASER before he finished those  
25 commands?

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2 A. I don't remember.

3 Q. There's an inference if he's still  
4 saying "get your TASER, get your TASER" it's  
5 because you haven't gotten it yet, right?

6 MR. ARKO: Objection.

7 A. I don't know what Lieutenant Leon sees,  
8 I don't know if he sees me take it out or he  
9 doesn't; only he can answer to that.

10 Q. I'm not asking you what he sees, I am  
11 asking you whether it is fair to conclude from the  
12 fact that he's telling you to "get your TASER,"  
13 that he hasn't seen you get it yet?

14 MR. ARKO: Objection.

15 A. I don't know what he saw.

16 Q. Do you think that makes sense?

17 MR. ARKO: Objection.

18 A. I can only speak for myself, I can't  
19 speak for Lieutenant Leon.

20 Q. I know, but you have to answer my  
21 question. I am not asking you to predict what is  
22 going on in Lieutenant Leon's mind. I am asking  
23 do you, Officer Baltzer, think it is a fair  
24 assumption that he would not have continued to say  
25 "get your TASER" if he had seen you get your

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2 TASER?

3 MR. ARKO: Objection.

4 A. That's my answer, I don't know what he  
5 would do in that situation. I can't speak for  
6 him.

7 Q. If you had ordered someone to get  
8 something and you were aware that they had done  
9 it, would you continue to order them to get it?

10 MR. ARKO: Objection.

11 A. If I saw them get it then I would stop.  
12 If I didn't see them, then I would continue. But  
13 again, I don't know who he was ordering or what he  
14 saw.

15 Q. Did you have your hand on your TASER  
16 when Lieutenant Leon first ordered you to get it?

17 A. I don't remember.

18 Q. Were you surprised when he ordered you  
19 to get it out?

20 A. From my knowledge of the scene, I don't  
21 remember hearing him the first few times because I  
22 was more focused on the situation at hand than  
23 Lieutenant Leon.

24 Q. At the time Lieutenant Leon gave the  
25 order, was your TASER already drawn?

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2 A. I don't believe so.

3 Q. If you thought it was necessary to draw  
4 your TASER to gain compliance you had the  
5 authority to do that, right?

6 MR. ARKO: Objection.

7 A. Can you ask that again?

8 Q. Sure. If you had thought just as you  
9 were standing there that it was necessary to get  
10 your TASER out in order to gain Mr. Harris'  
11 compliance you had the authority to draw your  
12 TASER on your own, right?

13 MR. ARKO: Objection.

14 A. I would have the authority to drawn on  
15 my own, right.

16 Q. Why didn't you?

17 A. I did.

18 Q. You did it after Lieutenant Leon  
19 ordered you to do it four times, right?

20 A. No, I did it because I wanted to, not  
21 because Lieutenant Leon ordered me to.

22 Q. So the fact you ultimately drew your  
23 TASER had nothing to do with the fact that  
24 Lieutenant Leon ordered you to do so four times?

25 A. No.

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2 Q. So it was a completely independent  
3 decision on your part?

4 A. I drew my TASER and used my TASER  
5 because I felt like it was necessary.

6 Q. That was a decision that was completely  
7 independently made on your own, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So the fact that it happened after  
10 Lieutenant Leon ordered you to do it four times is  
11 just coincidence?

12 MR. ARKO: Objection.

13 A. Again, I used the TASER and being that  
14 it was necessary on my own, Lieutenant Leon saying  
15 "draw your TASER" had nothing to do with my  
16 decision to use it.

17 Q. What specific action or actions  
18 undertaken by Mr. Harris led you to determine on  
19 your own that it was necessary to draw your TASER?

20 A. When Mr. Harris first approached the  
21 vehicle he approached it in a very aggressive and  
22 irate manner, from that point when he first  
23 approached it the situation progressively got  
24 escalated to the point where I felt it was  
25 necessary to draw my TASER.



1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. You said the situation "progressively  
3 escalated," right?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. There came a point in time in that  
6 escalation when you made your own decision to draw  
7 your TASER, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What was the action that Mr. Harris  
10 took immediately prior to your deciding to draw  
11 your TASER?

12 MR. ARKO: Objection.

13 A. There were multiple actions that were  
14 taken leading up to the point where I deemed it  
15 was necessary to draw my TASER, starting from --

16 Q. That's not my question. I am not  
17 asking you about all the actions, I'm asking about  
18 the actions immediately prior. What was the  
19 action Mr. Harris took immediately prior to your  
20 determining that it was the necessary to draw your  
21 TASER?

22 MR. ARKO: Objection.

23 A. Mr. Harris actively began to resist  
24 arrest, and he was actively exhibiting extreme  
25 aggression.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. What specific action did Mr. Harris  
3 take immediately prior to you determining that it  
4 was necessary to draw your taster?

5 MR. ARKO: Objection.

6 A. When Mr. Harris was being attempted  
7 (sic)to be placed under arrest he pulled his arms  
8 away and started flailing them, he waived them in  
9 a very aggressive manner and was in a physical  
10 struggle with my lieutenant from what I could see.

11 Q. When you say "he waived his arms in a  
12 very aggressive manner" what do you mean by that?

13 A. He pulled away from Lieutenant Lane  
14 when he attempted to place Mr. Harris under arrest  
15 and he was waving them, in my opinion, as  
16 resisting for us, to avoid us grabbing him. And  
17 then he went into a physical struggle when  
18 Lieutenant Lane attempted to grab him again, and  
19 they were struggling in front of the car.

20 Q. Focusing specifically on what you  
21 described as the use of Mr. Harris' arms in an  
22 aggressive arms what specifically did he do with  
23 his arms to lead you to conclude he was using them  
24 in an aggressive manner?

25 MR. ARKO: Objection.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. He pulled back aggressively when  
3 attempting to being placed under arrest, and he  
4 moved his arms aggressively through the air  
5 avoiding grasps from Lieutenant Lane from what I  
6 could see.

7 Q. Can you describe what was ostensibly  
8 aggressive about his arm movements without using  
9 the word "aggressive" in your answer please?

10 MR. ARKO: Objection.

11 A. A very fast motion of his arms away  
12 from the grasp of Lieutenant Lane.

13 Q. I am going to go back to the video.  
14 Can you see a still frame of the video  
15 on your screen Officer Baltzer?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. I am going to go back to 1:03.

18 (Video played.)

19 Q. I stopped it at 1:07. Did you see just  
20 before I stopped the video Mr. Harris place his  
21 hands up in the air?

22 A. I saw his palms come up, yes.

23 Q. Is that the action you characterized as  
24 him pulling his arms back aggressively when  
25 Lieutenant Lane attempted to place him under

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 arrest?

3 MR. ARKO: Objection.

4 A. That was the start of many actions that  
5 followed.

6 Q. Would you characterize the action that  
7 we just saw before stopping the video at 1:07 as  
8 "waiving his arms in an aggressive manner"?

9 A. Again, that was the start of what  
10 progressed into waiving his arms into aggression,  
11 he clearly pulled away when my Lieutenant went to  
12 grab his arm and place him under arrest.

13 Q. Try to focus on my question. I'm not  
14 asking you about what he might have done  
15 subsequently, I am just asking whether that  
16 particular action that we saw just before stopping  
17 the video at 1:07 is what you would consider to be  
18 waiving his arms in an aggressive manner?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. That specific motion at that time in  
21 the video, no.

22 Q. So it was sometime after that that  
23 according to you he waived his arms in an  
24 aggressive manner.

25 Is that correct?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. It was the waiving of the arms in an  
4 aggressive manner that led you to conclude that  
5 the TASER was appropriate, right?

6 A. Not necessarily, that was not the main  
7 reason. The main reason was, he was actively  
8 resisting arrest after multiple opportunities and  
9 multiple warnings and he also was exhibiting  
10 aggression in the way that him and Lieutenant Lane  
11 were having a confrontation physically.

12 Q. As of the moment where we paused the  
13 video at 1:07, had you determined at that point  
14 that it was appropriate to use your TASER?

15 A. I don't remember.

16 (Recess.)

17 Q. You testified that Mr. Harris' verbal  
18 interaction with Lieutenant Lane was quote  
19 "irate," and quote "aggressive."

20 Correct?

21 A. I testified that when he approached the  
22 scene, I believe that he was aggressive and irate.

23 Q. What was he doing with his hands when  
24 he approached you-all?

25 A. I don't remember at this time.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. What was it about Mr. Harris when he  
3 approached you-all and had verbal interaction that  
4 led you to say it was aggressive?

5 A. You can tell by the tone of his voice,  
6 by his hands were moving, I don't remember what  
7 they were doing specifically, but you can tell by  
8 the tone of his voice and our instructions towards  
9 him, he was being very negative towards our  
10 instructions to him.

11 Q. Do you consider someone putting their  
12 hands in the air to be aggressive?

13 MR. ARKO: Objection.

14 A. Can you say that again?

15 Q. Do you consider someone putting their  
16 hands in the air to be aggressive (indicating)?

17 MR. ARKO: Objection.

18 A. It depends how they put their hands in  
19 the air.

20 Q. Putting your hands up is a sign of  
21 non-aggression, right?

22 MR. ARKO: Objection.

23 A. At times, yes.

24 Q. That's the meaning of when someone is  
25 putting their hands up, they are showing you they

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 are not a threat, right, that's what that means?

3 MR. ARKO: Objection.

4 A. Again, not necessarily. You don't know  
5 if somebody was trying to grab your wrist and you  
6 picked them up, that would be resisting.

7 Q. Is all resistance aggression in your  
8 view?

9 MR. ARKO: Objection.

10 A. In my view, no, not all resistance is  
11 aggressive.

12 Q. Before you deployed the TASER, what  
13 specifically did Lieutenant Lane do to attempt to  
14 place Mr. Harris under arrest?

15 A. From my point of view, he went to grab  
16 ahold of him to place him under arrest and  
17 Mr. Harris pulled his hands back, and they got  
18 into a physical altercation.

19 Q. What specifically did Lieutenant Lane  
20 do during this alleged physical altercation?

21 A. I can't speak for what he did.

22 Q. But you were watching, right?

23 A. I was behind him.

24 Q. You could see some of what he was  
25 doing, right?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. I could see some of what he was doing.

3 Q. Tell me everything that you saw  
4 Lieutenant Lane do during the alleged physical  
5 altercation with Mr. Harris.

6 MR. ARKO: Objection.

7 A. From my point of view, I saw Lieutenant  
8 Lane attempt to place Mr. Harris under arrest by  
9 grabbing him, I saw Mr. Harris pull away in  
10 resistance, and I saw Lieutenant Lane attempt to  
11 grab ahold of him again and place him under  
12 arrest, and Mr. Harris constantly pulling away and  
13 tussling to try to get away from Lieutenant Lane.

14 Q. So your answer said Mr. Harris first  
15 pulled away, and Lieutenant Lane tried again  
16 leading to what you described as "tussling."

17 Right?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. From my point of view, yes.

20 Q. Just to clarify, the first incidence of  
21 pulling away is what we saw just before pausing  
22 the video at 1:07, was Mr. Harris putting his  
23 hands up, right?

24 A. The first instance of him pulling away  
25 from Lieutenant Lane in my eyes, yes.



1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. Leaving that aside and focusing on the  
3 subsequent interaction between Lieutenant Lane and  
4 Mr. Harris, how many times did Lieutenant Lane  
5 allegedly attempt to grab Mr. Harris?

6 MR. ARKO: Objection.

7 A. I can't tell you that, I can't put a  
8 number on it.

9 Q. Where were Lieutenant Lane's hands on  
10 Mr. Harris' body?

11 A. I don't remember.

12 Q. Did Mr. Harris ever make contact with  
13 Lieutenant Lane?

14 A. I don't remember.

15 Q. Describe how exactly Mr. Harris moved  
16 his arms during the alleged tussling that you  
17 described?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. He moved his arms in a very fast  
20 motion, in my eyes from Lieutenant Lane's grasp in  
21 order to place him under arrest.

22 Q. In which direction did Mr. Harris move  
23 his arms?

24 A. Away from Lieutenant Lane.

25 Q. Left, right, up, down, in, out --

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 MR. ARKO: Objection.

3 A. Away from wherever he was trying to  
4 grab him.

5 Q. How was Lieutenant Lane trying to grab  
6 him and how did Mr. Harris move in response?

7 MR. ARKO: Objection.

8 A. Again, I don't remember which  
9 direction, I just remember that it was away from  
10 Lieutenant Lane's grasp.

11 Q. So you really can't describe anything  
12 specific about this interaction other than  
13 Lieutenant Lane was trying to make an arrest and  
14 Mr. Harris was not cooperating, right?

15 MR. ARKO: Objection.

16 A. No, I can explain a lot about it.

17 Q. How specifically was Lieutenant Lane  
18 and Mr. Harris' body moving?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. Again, Lieutenant Lane was trying to  
21 grab Mr. Harris and place him under arrest. At  
22 that point, Mr. Harris pulled away in an attempt  
23 to resist being placed under arrest, and then in  
24 my eyes Lieutenant Lane attempted to place him  
25 under arrest again by moving towards him and

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 grabbing him, and from my point of view Mr. Harris  
3 again resisted multiple more times by pulling away  
4 from Lieutenant Lane's grasp.

5 Q. What physically did Lieutenant Lane do  
6 to try and arrest Mr. Harris on the second  
7 attempt?

8 MR. ARKO: Objection.

9 A. I can't speak for what he did, I can  
10 only say that from what I saw he attempted to grab  
11 him and place him under arrest again.

12 Q. What specifically did Mr. Harris do in  
13 response to the second attempt?

14 MR. ARKO: Objection.

15 A. In my eyes, he constantly pulled away  
16 in resistance to being placed under arrest.

17 Q. How did he do that?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. He pulled his arms away in a very fast  
20 motion.

21 Q. You saw in the video that there was  
22 female officer standing near the car door next to  
23 Mr. Harris, right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. What, if anything, did that female

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 officer do to help effectuate this arrest?

3 A. I don't remember.

4 Q. Did she ever touch Mr. Harris?

5 A. I don't remember.

6 Q. Did she try to help Lieutenant Lane in  
7 any way?

8 A. I don't remember.

9 Q. What about Lieutenant Leon, did he ever  
10 touch Mr. Harris?

11 A. I don't remember seeing it.

12 Q. Did he attempt to help Lieutenant Lane  
13 in any way?

14 A. Again, I don't remember.

15 Q. If one member of the service was  
16 struggling to get compliance with a single  
17 arrestee, wouldn't you expect other members of the  
18 service standing right there to come to their aid?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. I can't speak for what they thought or  
21 saw.

22 Q. Well, if you were standing right there  
23 wouldn't you usually come to your brother  
24 officer's aid?

25 MR. ARKO: Objection.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Me personally, yes.

3 Q. What was Lieutenant Lane doing at the  
4 time you pulled the trigger on the TASER?

5 A. At the time I pulled the trigger on the  
6 TASER, Lieutenant Lane was grabbing ahold of  
7 Mr. Harris as Mr. Harris attempted to enter the  
8 passenger side door of the vehicle.

9 Q. Where were Lieutenant Lane's hands on  
10 Mr. Harris' body at the time you pulled the  
11 trigger on the TASER?

12 A. I don't remember where his hand  
13 placement was.

14 Q. You said Mr. Harris was attempting to  
15 enter the passenger side door of the vehicle.

16 Correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Were his feet off the ground?

19 A. Not that I remember, no.

20 Q. Were his arms touching the door?

21 A. I -- at this moment, I don't remember.

22 Q. Was his body in the seat of the  
23 passenger side seat of the car?

24 A. Do you mean was his whole body in the  
25 seat of the passenger side?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. Was any portion of his body in the  
3 passenger side seat of the car?

4 A. I don't remember.

5 Q. Was any part of Mr. Harris' body  
6 touching the vehicle at the time you pulled the  
7 trigger on the TASER?

8 A. I don't remember if it was or it  
9 wasn't.

10 Q. What specific action did Mr. Harris  
11 take that led you to say that he was trying to  
12 enter the passenger side of the vehicle?

13 A. He was attempting to head towards that  
14 way, and throughout the whole video you can see  
15 him walking towards the passenger side door and  
16 even telling us that in substance it's his vehicle  
17 and he can do what he wants with it, and as he was  
18 being placed under arrest you can see in the video  
19 he was trying to get closer and closer to that  
20 side of the door, and from my eyes I could see him  
21 attempting to get in.

22 Q. So your understanding of Mr. Harris'  
23 intention in the whole interaction was that he was  
24 trying to get into the vehicle, right?

25 MR. ARKO: Objection.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. I don't know what Mr. Harris was  
3 thinking at that moment.

4 Q. But your understanding at the time was  
5 that he was trying to get into the passenger side  
6 of the vehicle, right?

7 A. All I know he was saying multiple times  
8 "it is my vehicle, I can do what I want."

9 Q. My question is, was he doing anything  
10 specific at the moment of the TASing that led you  
11 to believe he was trying to get inside the  
12 passenger side of the vehicle or was that based  
13 upon the totality of the interaction?

14 A. Can you ask that again? Sorry.

15 Q. Sure. You had indicated that at the  
16 time you pulled the trigger on the TASER,  
17 Mr. Harris was trying to get in the passenger side  
18 seat of the vehicle.

19 Do you remember testifying to that a  
20 couple of minutes ago?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. My question is, was this based upon  
23 something specific Mr. Harris was doing at the  
24 time you pulled the trigger or based on the  
25 totality of the interaction?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Based on that moment when he was trying  
3 to enter the vehicle, which was a crime scene with  
4 possible evidence inside of it, and he was  
5 resisting arrest, and he was exhibiting  
6 aggression. That's the reason I pulled the  
7 trigger on the TASER.

8 Q. My question is, what at that specific  
9 moment was he doing that led you to think he was  
10 trying to enter the vehicle at that moment?

11 MR. ARKO: Objection.

12 A. He was leaning towards the door to get  
13 inside of the vehicle.

14 Q. The door was opened this whole time,  
15 right?

16 A. From what I believe, yes.

17 Q. There was nothing physically blocking  
18 Mr. Harris from getting into the car was there?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. Physically? Not that I remember.

21 Q. What was Officer Jimenez doing at the  
22 time you pulled the trigger on the TASER?

23 A. I don't remember.

24 Q. After you deployed the TASER Mr. Harris  
25 fell to the ground, correct?



1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Did you see what part of his body made  
4 physical contact with the ground?

5 A. I don't remember.

6 Q. Did watching the body-worn camera  
7 footage in preparation for today's testimony  
8 refresh your memory about what part of Mr. Harris'  
9 body hit the ground when he fell?

10 A. Again, I don't remember; it is all  
11 blurry on the video.

12 Q. So from both your recollection and the  
13 video, you have no knowledge of what part of  
14 Mr. Harris' body hit the ground when he fell,  
15 correct?

16 A. At this time I can't remember which part  
17 of his body hit the ground first, no.

18 Q. That is with the benefit of having  
19 previously seen the portion of the video that  
20 depicts the TASing and the fall, correct?

21 MR. ARKO: Objection.

22 A. Correct. Again, the video is a little  
23 blurry, I can't remember which part of his body  
24 hit the ground first.

25 Q. Just for orientation, I am going to go

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER  
2 back to the still frame of Plaintiff's Exhibit 3  
3 for a --

4 MR. ARKO: For the record, we are at  
5 1:07.

6 Q. Yes, we're at 1:07.

7 Can you see the time stamp in the  
8 upper-left corner?

9 A. Again, it is a little blurry but I  
10 think it says 03:54.

11 Q. I agree, it is just for context for  
12 where I am going next.

13 MR. LIEB: I am going to designate as  
14 Plaintiff's Exhibit 4 a body-worn camera footage  
15 produced by defendants as Defendants 56.

16 (Plaintiff's Exhibit No. 4 was  
17 marked for identification.)

18 Q. Officer Baltzer, can you see a still  
19 frame on your screen?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Do you see the time stamp of 5:14:05?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. For context, would you agree with me  
24 this appears to be some time after the TASing  
25 incident with Mr. Harris?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I am just going to play this video for  
4 a moment or two.

5 (Video played.)

6 Q. There is a member of the service with a  
7 TASER on their belt in a blue shirt in the  
8 foreground of this frame.

9 Do you see that?

10 MR. ARKO: Stopped at three seconds.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Who's that?

13 A. I can't make out his face, again our  
14 screen is a lot blurrier.

15 (Video played.)

16 Q. I have stopped it at 13 seconds.

17 Are you able to determine who that is?

18 A. That looks like Sergeant Cannariato.

19 Q. That's Lieutenant Lane in the white  
20 shirt there, right?

21 A. I believe so.

22 Q. In any event, the member of the service  
23 in the foreground with the blue shirt has sergeant  
24 stripes on the blue sleeve, right?

25 A. Correct.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 MR. LIEB: I am pasting in the chat and  
3 will display on the screen what I have marked as  
4 Plaintiff's [Exhibit 5](#), which is a three-page  
5 document although the third has no substance;  
6 bearing Bates number Defendants 21 to 23.

7 (Plaintiff's [Exhibit No. 5](#) was  
8 marked for identification.)

9 Q. So just looking at the top of the page  
10 for a moment you recognize this document to be a  
11 TRI or Threat Resistance and Injury Report,  
12 Officer Baltzer?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. That is standard NYPD paperwork that is  
15 completed when there is a use-of-force, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. There is a section or portion completed  
18 by the officer who used force and a section  
19 completed by the supervisor, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. So I am going to go down to a portion  
22 on page Defendant's 22 that says "completing  
23 member."

24 Do you see that here, towards the top  
25 of the screen?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. It has your name and tax ID number.  
4 Correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Does that indicate you completed this  
7 portion of the TRI Report?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. So this is your TRI Report for the  
10 use-of-force incident involving Mr. Harris,  
11 correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So, do you see down here in the bottom  
14 right of page, Defendant's 21, there is a question  
15 "subject used force?" Answer is "no."

16 Do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. This is a computerized form you fill  
19 out, right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Whether the subject used force is one  
22 of the standard questions on the form that you  
23 have to complete, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Here the subject is Mr. Harris, right?

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You answered "no," correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. That is true, right, Mr. Harris didn't  
6 use any force against police during this  
7 interaction, correct?

8 A. Against me, no.

9 Q. So are you saying if Mr. Harris had  
10 used force against a brother officer you still  
11 would have answered this question "no"?

12 MR. ARKO: Objection.

13 A. It is completed by me, this form is  
14 based on my interaction with Mr. Harris, and from  
15 my interaction, Mr. Harris didn't use force  
16 against me.

17 Q. But the correct way to complete this  
18 form is for if the subject used force against any  
19 member of the service you're supposed to answer  
20 "yes," right?

21 MR. ARKO: Objection.

22 A. I'm not sure if that's true or not, I  
23 answered no because he didn't use force against  
24 me.

25 Q. You didn't observe him use force

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 against anyone else, right?

3 A. I observed a physical struggle between  
4 him and Lieutenant Lane.

5 Q. But you didn't observe Mr. Harris use  
6 force against anyone else, correct?

7 MR. ARKO: Objection.

8 A. How do you describe "force"?

9 Q. Well, you fill out this form, right?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. So based upon whatever you understand  
12 force to mean and the NYPD use-of-force paperwork,  
13 you didn't observe Mr. Harris use force against  
14 anyone else, correct?

15 A. Against me, no.

16 Q. What about against anyone else?

17 MR. ARKO: Objection.

18 A. In my personal view of the incident, I  
19 observed a physical struggle, and it depends what  
20 your term of force is, but this form is filled out  
21 by me, against me; so no, he didn't use force  
22 against me.

23 Q. You have an understanding of what  
24 "force" means on this document, right?

25 MR. ARKO: Objection.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 Q. This is a standard form you have to  
4 fill out in the regular performance of your duties  
5 as a police officer, right?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Based on that understanding of force,  
8 the meaning of the word "force," did you observe  
9 Mr. Harris use force against any member of the  
10 NYPD, "yes" or "no"?

11 MR. ARKO: Objection.

12 A. No, I did not, it depends on your  
13 definition of force. A physical struggle does not  
14 constitute the use-of-force.

15 Q. At the top of page Defendant's 22 you  
16 indicate that you did not suspect alcohol  
17 intoxication or drug use.

18 Correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. That is also true, right, you did not  
21 suspect during this interaction suspect alcohol  
22 intoxication or drug use on the part of  
23 Mr. Harris, right?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Then there is a question "emotionally



1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 disturbed person?"

3 Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The answer there is "no," correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. That is also true, you did not perceive  
8 Mr. Harris to be an emotionally disturbed person  
9 during your interaction with him on September 2nd,  
10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. On page Defendant's 22 there is a  
13 portion of the form "CEW Use."

14 Do you see that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That is a portion of the TRI Report  
17 that you fill out if a TASER has been deployed,  
18 correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. There is a question "de-escalation  
21 tactics utilized" question mark.

22 Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you indicated there was a "display  
25 of the TASER (sic) and verbal warnings."

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. The question there is whether you  
5 attempted to de-escalate the situation by any  
6 means, prior to the deployment of the TASER,  
7 correct?

8 MR. ARKO: Objection.

9 A. That is not so true.

10 Q. What do you understand to be the  
11 meaning of the question "de-escalation tactics  
12 utilized" question mark?

13 A. I believe that is what it says, but in  
14 the situation I believe that there was an imminent  
15 use for the TASER at that specific moment.

16 Q. But taking it one step at a time, I am  
17 not getting to why you used the TASER against  
18 Mr. Harris on the day, I just want to understand  
19 what you understand the meaning of these words to  
20 be.

21 What do you understand to be the  
22 meaning of the words "de-escalation tactics  
23 utilized" question mark, on the TRI Report?

24 A. Steps used to de-escalate the  
25 situation.

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 Q. Right, it is asking you whether you  
3 undertook any steps to de-escalate the situation  
4 before using the TASER, right?

5 MR. ARKO: Objection.

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. In answer to that question you said  
8 that you displayed the TASER and gave verbal  
9 warnings, right?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. You didn't display the TASER as a  
12 de-escalation tactic, did you?

13 MR. ARKO: Objection.

14 A. I displayed it in use as a  
15 de-escalation tactic, and I also gave verbal  
16 warnings with "TASER, TASER, TASER."

17 Q. How long did you display the TASER  
18 before firing it?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. I can't put a time frame on it.

21 Q. Was it more than a second?

22 MR. ARKO: Objection.

23 A. It might have been or it might not have  
24 been, I can't put a time frame on it.

25 Q. Was Mr. Harris facing in your direction

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 at the time you displayed the TASER?

3 A. In my direction face-to-face, I don't  
4 believe so.

5 Q. Could you see his eyes when you  
6 displayed the TASER?

7 MR. ARKO: Objection.

8 A. I don't believe so.

9 Q. I am going to go back to the  
10 Plaintiff's Exhibit 3 of the body camera footage.

11 Can you see the still frame on your  
12 screen Officer Baltzer?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. ARKO: That's at 1 minute zero  
15 seconds.

16 Q. Starting the video at 1:00.

17 (Video played.)

18 MR. ARKO: One second Doug, I think  
19 there is a lag between the sound and the video for  
20 that portion.

21 MR. LIEB: I will try it one more time.

22 Q. Back to one minute.

23 (Video played.)

24 MR. ARKO: Doug, the video is moving  
25 very, very slowly on our end, there is a lag

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2 between the sound and the video.

3 MR. LIEB: I'm not really sure what to  
4 do...let me try this again and I will turn off the  
5 sound for purposes of this question.

6 MR. ARKO: Okay.

7 Q. Starting at one minute, sound off.

8 (Video played without sound.)

9 Q. I am stopping the video at 1:13.

10 Do you see that you, Mr. Harris and  
11 Lieutenant Lane are at this point in the video on  
12 the way to the ground? (sic)

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So you understand that at this point in  
15 the video the TASER has already been deployed,  
16 yes?

17 A. Can you go back a couple of seconds?

18 Q. Starting at 1:07.

19 (Video played.)

20 Q. Stopping at 1:14.

21 Do you understand the TASER has been  
22 deployed at this point?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you see yourself at that point of  
25 the video, 1:07 to 1:14 (sic), displaying the

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2 TASER as a de-escalation tactic?

3 MR. ARKO: Objection.

4 A. I believe so, yes.

5 Q. How did you do that during that  
6 portion -- what was it that you did depicted in  
7 that portion of the video that you consider to be  
8 a de-escalation tactic?

9 MR. ARKO: Objection.

10 A. I drew my TASER and I gave him verbal  
11 warnings with "TASER, TASER, TASER."

12 Q. By definition you need to draw the  
13 TASER in order to fire it, right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Separate and apart from taking it out,  
16 what, if anything, did you do as a de-escalation  
17 tactic when it came to displaying the TASER?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. I displayed it. I take it out of the  
20 holster and I display it.

21 Q. Okay.

22 MR. LIEB: It is almost 12:30, I don't  
23 have a huge amount more but I believe it's  
24 probably a good idea to take a lunch break, so can  
25 we come back at 1:10.

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2 (Lunch Recess.)

3 Q. Officer Baltzer, we were discussing  
4 this morning whether you had a body-worn camera on  
5 the day of this incident. When you do have a  
6 body-worn camera on your person while you're on  
7 patrol where on your body do you generally put it?

8 A. Generally, I put it in the middle of --

9 THE STENOGRAPHER: (Asks Witness to  
10 repeat due to technical issue.)

11 A. -- the front my body.

12 Q. That answer was garbled, can you repeat  
13 your answer Officer Baltzer?

14 A. Of course. In the middle of my  
15 chest...

16 (Technical issue.)

17 MR. LIEB: The connection is not good.

18 MR. ARKO: Let me leave the meeting and  
19 come back in one second.

20 Q. One more time, Officer Baltzer. Where  
21 do you generally wear your body camera when you  
22 wear it?

23 A. In the middle of my chest.

24 (Continued discussion regarding the  
25 connection issues.)

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2 Q. One more time, where do you usually  
3 wear your body camera?

4 A. In the middle of my chest.

5 Q. Does it clip onto your uniform shirt?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you usually clip it -- does your  
8 uniform shirt have buttons or a zipper in front?

9 A. I don't remember what shirt I was  
10 wearing at the time, but it could be buttons or a  
11 zipper.

12 Q. If it was a buttons you would clip it  
13 between two buttons?

14 A. Usually, somewhere in the middle of my  
15 chest.

16 Q. And your radio would be up by your  
17 shoulder so you can activate it without your  
18 hands, right?

19 A. No, I didn't haven't one of those buff  
20 mics, I just have the regular radio so it was on  
21 my hip.

22 Q. Got it. Would there be anything else  
23 in the middle of your chest as part of your normal  
24 uniform other than a body-worn camera?

25 A. Not that I can think of.



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2 Q. Have you ever downloaded or accessed  
3 your body-worn camera footage through the Axon  
4 online platform or evidence.com?

5 MR. ARKO: Objection.

6 A. For this case or any case?

7 Q. For any case.

8 A. Yes, I have done this before.

9 Q. Are you familiar with something called  
10 an "audit trail" or an "audit log" that is like a  
11 spreadsheet that indicates what was going on with  
12 your body-worn camera at any given time?

13 MR. ARKO: Objection.

14 A. No, I am not familiar with that.

15 Q. Do you know whether a document exists  
16 that would reflect whether your body-worn camera  
17 was charging or on standby at any given moment in  
18 time?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. I'm not aware that any document like  
21 that exists.

22 MR. LIEB: I am going to put in the  
23 chat and share on the screen what I have marked as  
24 Plaintiff's Exhibit 6...

25 (Plaintiff's [Exhibit No. 6](#) was

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2 marked for identification.)

3 MR. LIEB: Which is an eight-page  
4 document that I accessed in the public domain,  
5 which is the portion of the NYPD patrol guide  
6 pertaining to use of body-worn cameras with the  
7 effective date of January 8, 2018.

8 Q. I am going down to paragraph four which  
9 is entitled "mandatory activation of BWC."

10 Do you see that Officer Baltzer?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You understand that BWC stands for  
13 "body-worn camera," correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. One of times when it is mandatory to  
16 activate a body-worn camera is 4(c), "public  
17 interactions that escalate and become  
18 adversarial."

19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Mr. Harris was obviously a member of  
22 the public on September 2nd of 2020, correct?

23 MR. ARKO: Objection.

24 A. He is a member of the public, yes.

25 Q. You testified earlier that his verbal

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2 exchange with you and your colleagues was quote,  
3 unquote "irate" and quote, unquote "aggressive."

4 Correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. You actually used the word "escalate"  
7 to describe the situation that unfolded with  
8 Mr. Harris, you said it "progressively escalated."

9 Right?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. This whole interaction with Mr. Harris  
12 clearly falls within paragraph 4(c) for mandatory  
13 activation of body-worn camera, right, it is a  
14 public interaction that's escalating and becoming  
15 adversarial; in your assessment, right?

16 MR. ARKO: Objection.

17 A. In my estimate, my belief, yes.

18 Q. So if you had had a body-worn camera on  
19 you on the morning of September 2nd of 2020, you  
20 would agree that based upon how you understood the  
21 situation you would have been required to activate  
22 it, correct?

23 MR. ARKO: Objection.

24 A. If I had my body-worn camera at the  
25 time I believe that I would have activated it,

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2 yes.

3 Q. Not only do you believe you would have,  
4 but you believe you would been required to do so,  
5 right?

6 MR. ARKO: Objection.

7 A. With the situation at hand, yes.

8 Q. I want to go back to Plaintiff's  
9 Exhibit 3, which is the body-worn camera video  
10 Bates numbered Defendants 54. I am going to start  
11 the video -- can you see the still frame on your  
12 screen Officer Baltzer?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I am going to start the video at 1  
15 minute 34.

16 (Video played.)

17 Q. Stopping the video at 1:40.

18 First of all, in context you understand  
19 from Mr. Harris screaming that this is after the  
20 TASER was deployed, yes?

21 A. I believe this moment, this was after  
22 the TASER was deployed.

23 Q. We have Lieutenant Lane in the white  
24 shirt, right?

25 A. His face is blurry, I can't tell, but I

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2 believe so.

3 Q. The big black thing in the middle of  
4 his chest is a body-worn camera, right?

5 A. From my belief, that's what it looks  
6 like.

7 Q. I will keep playing.

8 (Video played.)

9 Q. Stopping at 1:42.

10 There was a member of the service in  
11 the near foreground who quickly looked up toward  
12 the body-worn camera and then looked back down.

13 Did you see that?

14 A. Are you talking about the one wearing a  
15 mask?

16 Q. No, I will play it again. Starting at  
17 1:39 the person all the way to the right, keep  
18 your focus on that person please.

19 (Video played.)

20 Q. Did you see that person just look  
21 towards the camera and then look back down?

22 A. What do you mean "look towards the  
23 camera"?

24 Q. Withdrawn. That's you, right?

25 A. Yeah, that's me.

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2 Q. That is what I wanted to establish,  
3 that that's you.

4 A. Okay.

5 (Video played.)

6 Q. I stopped it at 1:59.

7 Did you see yourself just grab an area  
8 in the center of your chest and adjust something?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What were you adjusting?

11 A. It could have been my vest.

12 Q. Could it have been your body-worn  
13 camera?

14 MR. ARKO: Objection.

15 A. Negative, because I wasn't wearing my  
16 body camera at the time.

17 Q. Are you saying you're sure you didn't  
18 have your body-worn camera on the day in question?

19 A. To my best knowledge of this situation,  
20 right now, I was not wearing my body camera.

21 Q. Is that based upon your recollection or  
22 your assumption if you had it on you would have  
23 turned it on or something else?

24 MR. ARKO: Objection.

25 A. It is based upon my knowledge of the

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2 incident and my knowledge of me working a double  
3 and that the batteries on the body camera don't  
4 usually last over eight to nine hours -- and I  
5 already testified if there was an incident my body  
6 camera would have been activated so I believe --  
7 so if I didn't activate my body camera at the  
8 moment, I believe I would have activated it.

9 Q. Continuing from 1:59.

10 (Video played.)

11 Q. Did you see yourself twice adjust  
12 something on your chest there?

13 A. I touched my chest, yes.

14 Q. That was your vest again you think?

15 A. It could have been, yes.

16 Q. Resuming at 2:04.

17 (Video played.)

18 Q. Do you see yourself just grab with your  
19 hand in a U-Shape something in the middle of your  
20 chest? Stopped at 2:08?

21 A. I saw myself touch my chest again, yes.

22 Q. Let's focus on what you're doing when  
23 you're touching your chest. Resuming at 2:03.

24 (Video played.)

25 Q. Can you see yourself grab something in

1 POLICE OFFICER MAXWELL BALTZER

2 the middle of your chest with your hand? Stopping  
3 the video at 2:08.

4 A. I can't tell if I grabbed anything, but  
5 I can tell that I twist my hand on my chest.

6 Q. But there is nothing else that would be  
7 there other than a body-worn camera, right?

8 MR. ARKO: Objection.

9 A. Not that I can see and that I can  
10 remember.

11 (Video played.)

12 Q. 2:16 you were grabbing your chest  
13 again, right?

14 A. I touched my chest again, yes.

15 Q. Are you generally in the habit of  
16 touching your chest that frequently when there is  
17 nothing there?

18 MR. ARKO: Objection.

19 A. I don't know what was going through my  
20 head at the time, I don't know if it was a nervous  
21 habit because of the situation that just happened.

22 Q. But you would agree with me that from  
23 this video you can't tell there is a body-worn  
24 camera on your chest one way or the other, you  
25 can't see conclusively that part of your uniform,



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2 right?

3 A. A black body camera on a dark blue  
4 shirt you couldn't really tell, no.

5 Q. It is tough to see, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You would agree with that, yes?

8 A. I would agree that looking at this  
9 video for the first time that it would be hard to  
10 tell.

11 Q. You're familiar with the criminal  
12 offense under the Penal Law known as "Obstructing  
13 Governmental Administration"?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Also known as "OGA"?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. It is a misdemeanor, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Not a particularly serious offense?

20 MR. ARKO: Objection.

21 A. I believe that it could be.

22 Q. Do you consider misdemeanors serious  
23 offenses?

24 MR. ARKO: Objection.

25 A. A misdemeanor is a crime, and it

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2 depends on what they're doing during that OGA, it  
3 could be serious.

4 Q. In the continuum of crimes, would you  
5 consider OGA less serious or more serious?

6 MR. ARKO: Objection.

7 A. OGA is a crime, whether it being  
8 serious or not serious it is not either more or  
9 less, it is still a crime.

10 Q. Is murder a serious crime?

11 MR. ARKO: Objection.

12 A. Murder is a very serious crime.

13 Q. There are a lot of crimes out there and  
14 they range from less serious to more serious,  
15 right?

16 A. Right.

17 Q. Where does OGA fall on the scale from  
18 less serious to more serious?

19 MR. ARKO: Objection.

20 A. Again, as I testified it depends what  
21 they are doing during the OGA to make it either  
22 serious or less serious.

23 Q. If someone is, for example, physically  
24 assaulting an officer that could be OGA but it is  
25 also a felony assault on an officer, right?

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2 MR. ARKO: Objection.

3 A. Yes, it could be.

4 Q. So assume that OGA is the most serious  
5 charge, okay? Understand what I am saying?

6 A. I understand.

7 Q. In the circumstance in which OGA is the  
8 top charge you are arresting someone for, would  
9 you consider that to be a relatively more serious  
10 or relatively less serious offense?

11 MR. ARKO: Objection.

12 A. Again, it depends on why they are being  
13 arrested, what their -- request -- it depends  
14 whether it could be serious or not serious.

15 (Technical issue.)

16 MR. LIEB: We definitely got to get off  
17 the record and get a better Internet connection.

18 MR. ARKO: Let's take a break and I  
19 will see if I can get a better connection.

20 (Recess.)

21 Q. Let's try again: Officer Baltzer,  
22 you're familiar with something called a desk  
23 appearance ticket, right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. When you arrest someone there are